A

PLEASANT

description of the fortunate Ilandes, called the Ilands of CANARIA, vvith their straunge fruits and commodities,

VERIE DELECTABLE to read, to the praise of God.

Composed by the poore Pilgrime.

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1583.

TO THE RIGHT WORshipfull Maſter Ihon Woolley Eſquire, one of the Secretaries to the Queenes *moſt excellent Maieſtie,*

FOre Pilgrimes vſe, Right worſhipfull ſir, that after their wearie iournies, & returne into their natiue ſoile, to communicate the troth, of anie thing worthie to be knowen and of them ſeene, among their eſpeciall friends which are learned, and alſo louers of ſuch kinde of vocation. The holy ſcripture ſheweth vs, that when the wiſe men called Magi, being led by a ſtraunge ſtarre, to the place where Chriſt our Sauior was borne, at which place the ſtarre did not only ſtaie, but alſo gaue a wonderful brightnes with ſhining beams, to aſſure them that there the Sauiour was. Vndoubtedly theſe men letted not to declare theſe maruailous things & viſions, at their returne, as appeareth at this preſent, that in Aethiopia & the Eaſt Countries, are an infinite number of Chriſtians. Likewiſe the Eunuch, meſſenger to the Queene of Candace, letted not to manifeſt in his Countrie, the miraculous things that he had ſeene in Ieruſalem when

Christ our Redeemer suffered the most bitter death of the crosse. Nor yet the Queene of Sabba, kept in secret the wisdome of Salomon.

But the cause Right worshipfull, that I tooke this little Pamphlet in hand, was thorough the writing of Andrewe Theuet a Frenchman, who wrote of the Fortunate Ilandes by hearesay: But I poore Pilgrime maie call those Ilands infortunate: for there was I apprehended for an heretike and an open enimie to the Romish Churche, and there deteyned in that bloudie Inquisition, the space of fiue yeares, & now come home to offer this little worke to your worship, becauſe your helping hand is alwaies ready to fauor and further anie vertuous or good attempt. Beseeching your worship to accept it, & to consider that poore Pilgrimes haue not any other thing to giue, & the Almightie graunt your hearts desire.

At commaundement:

The P.P.

¶ A DESCRIPTION of the fortunate Ilandes,

now called the Ilandes of Canaria, with their perticular Commodities.

PLATO in his Thimeo, writeth, that about 750. yeres past, ther was a great Ilande lieng in the Ocean Sea, in Front of Hercules pilers, which stood at that time in the Iland of Cadez, this Ilande was called Atlantica, which lande by Gods permission sonke, sauing certaine Ilands which yet remaine called the Ilands of Cabo Verde, the Ilands of Canaria, and the Ilands of Azores and others.

The opinion of Plato seemeth to be true, because the Coast of Grunea hath sands & shallowes lying out a great way into the maine Ocean, which agreeth as parcell appertayning to the other Ilandes before rehearsed. Some of the Canaria Ilands as the Ile of Fortauentura by name, lyeth 50. leagues distaunt from the continent land of Africa, and the Ilands of Azores neere 300. leagues.

The opinion of Plato shall serue for this purpose, to the which I remit me. Because mine intēt is, particularly to speak of the Canaria Ilands, which are seuen in number, wherein I dwelt the space of vij. yeares and more, because I finde such varietie in sundry writers, & especially great vntrothes, in a booke called the new found worlde Antartike, set out by a French man called Andrew Theuet, the which his booke he dedicated to the Cardinall of Sens, kæper of the gteat seale of Fraunce.

It appeareth by the said booke that hee had read ỳ works of sundrie philosophers, Astronomers, & Cosmographers, whose opinions he gathered together. But touching his owne trauaile which hee affirmeth, I referre to the iudgement of the experient in our daies, and therefore for mine owne part I write of these Canaria Ilandes, as time hath taught me in manie yeares.

The Iland of Canaria.

THe Iland of Canaria is almost comparable in length to breadth, conteyning 12. leagues in length, touching the which as principall & the residue, the Spaniards

niards hold opinion, ý they discouered it in their nauigation toward America, but the Portingals say, that their nation first found the said Ilandes, in their Nauigation toward Aethiopia and East India.

But truth it is that the Spaniards first conquered these Ilands, with diuers English Gentlemen in their companie, whose descendents this present daie inioyeth thē. Some write that this Iland was named Canaria by meane of the number of dogs which there were found. As for example, Andrew Theuet saith, ý one Iuba carryed two dogges from thence: but that opinion could I neuer learne by anie of the naturall people of the Countrie, although I haue talked with many in my time, & with many of their children. For truth it is, that there were dogges, but such as are in all the Norwest lands, and some parte of ý West India, which serued the people in stead of shæpe for victuall. But of some of the conquerours of those Ilandes I haue heard say, that the reason why they were called Canaria Ilands, is, there groweth generally in them all, a foure square cane in great multitude together, which in touching them wil cast out a liquor as white

as milke, which liquor is ranke poyson, and at the first entrie into these Ilandes, some of the discouerers were therewith poysoned: for many yeares after that conquest, the inhabitants began to plant both wine and Sugar, so that Canaria was not so called by Sugar canes.

The people which first inhabited this lande were called Canaries by the conquerours, they were clothed in goate skinnes made like vnto a lose callocke, they dwelt in caues in the Rockes, in great amitie & brotherly loue. They spake all one language, their chiefe feeding was gelt dogs, goates, and goates milke, their bread was made of Barlie meale and Goats milke, called Gofia, which they vse at this date, and thereof I haue eaten diuerse times, for it is accounted exceeding wholesome.

Touching the originall of these people, some holde opinion, y the Romanes which dwelt in Africa exiled them thether, as well men as women, their tongues being cutte out of their heades, for blasphemie against the Romane Gods. But howsoeuer it were, their language was speechall, and not mixed with Romane speech or Arabian.

This

This Iland is now the principallest of all the rest, not in fertilitie, but by reason it is the seate of Justice and gouernment of all the residue. This Ilande hath a speciall Gouernor for the Iland onely, yet notwithstanding there are three Judges called Auditours, who are superiour Judges, and all in one iointly procede as the Lord Chancellor of anie realme.

To this Citie from all the other Ilands come al such by appeale, as haue sustained any wrong, and these good Judges do remedie the same. The Citie is called Ciuitas Palmarum, it hath a beautifull Cathedrall Church, with all dignities thereunto pertaining. For the publike weale of the Iland ther are sundrie Aldermen of great authoritie, who haue a counsell house by themselues. The Citie is not onely beautifull, but the citizens curious and gallant in apparell. And after anie raine or foule weather a man maye goe cleane in Velnet slippers, because ỹ ground is sandie, the aire verie temperate, without extreame heat or colde.

They reape wheate in Februarie, and againe in Maie, which is excellent good, & maketh bread as white as snow. This I-

land hath in it other three faire townes, the one called Telde, and ỳ second Galder the third Guia. It hath also 12. Sugar houses called Iugenios, in which they make great quantitie of good sugar.

The manner of the growth of Sugar is in this sort, a good ground giueth forth fruit nine times in 18. yeere. That is to saie, the first is called Planta which is laid a long in a borrowe, so that the water of a sluce may come ouer euerie rote being couered with earth: this rote bringeth forth sundrie canes, and so consequently all the rest. It groweth two yeares before the yelding of profit, and not fiue monethes, as Andrew Theuet the French man writeth.

Then are they cut euen with the ground, and the tops and leaues called Coholia cut off, and the canes bound into bundels like faggets, & so are carried to the sugar house called Iugenio, where they are ground in a mill, and the iuyce thereof conuayed by conduct to a great vessell made for the purpose, where it is boyled till it ware thicke, and then is it put into a fornaice of earthen pots of the moulde of a Sugar loafe, & then is it carryed to another house,

called

called a purging house, where it is placed to purge the blacknes with a certain clay that is laid thereon. Of the remainder in the cauldron is made a second sort called Escumas, and of the purging liquor that droppeth from the white Sugar is made a third sort, and the remainder is called Panela or Netas, the refuse of all the purging is called Remiel or Mallasses: and therof is made another sort called Refinnado.

When this first fruit is in this sorte gathered called Planta, then the Cane field where it grew, is burned ouer with Sugar straw to the stumps of the first canes, and being husbanded, watred & trimmed, at ẏ end of other two yeres, it yeeldeth the second fruite called Zoca. The third fruite is called Tercia Zoca, the fourth Quarta Zoca, and so orderly the rest till age causeth the olde Canes to be planted againe.

This Iland hath singular good wine, especially in the towne of Telde, and sundrie sortes of good frutes, as Batata, Mellons, peares, Apples, Orenges, Lemmons, Pomegranads, Figs, Peaches of diuerse sortes, and many other fruites: but especiallye the Plantano which groweth neere brooke sides, it is a tree that hath no Tim-

ber in it, but groweth directly vpward w̄ ẏ bodie hauing maruailous thick leaues, & euery leafe at the toppe of two yeardes long and almoſt halfe a yearde broade.

The Tree neuer yeeldeth fruite but once, and then is cut down, in whoſe place ſpringeth another, and ſo ſtill continueth. The fruit groweth on a braunch, and euerie tree yeeldeth two or three of thoſe branches, which beareth ſome more and ſome leſſe, as ſome 40. and ſome 30. the fruit is like a Cowcumber, and when it is ripe it is blacke, and in eating more delicate then anye conſerue. This Iſlande is ſufficientlye prouided of Oxen, Kine, Camelles, Goates, Sheepe, Capons, Hens, Ducks, and Pidgeons, and great Partridges. Wood is the thing that moſt wanteth: and becauſe I haue perticularly to deale of the other fiue Iſlands, I leaue further inlarging of Canaria, which ſtandeth in 27. degrees diſtant from the Aequator.

The Ile of Tenerif.

THE Iſland of Tenerif ſtandeth in 27. degrees & a halfe, from the equator, & is diſtāt frō Canaria 12. leagues, Northward.

This

This Ilande conteineth 17. leagues in length, and the land lyeth high in forme of a ridge of lowen lande in some parte of England, and in the middest of the sayde place standeth a round hill called Pico Deteythe, scituated of this sort. The toppe of this pike conteineth of height directly vpward 15. leagues and more, which is 45. English miles, out of the which oftentimes procedeth fire and brimstone, & may be about halfe a mile compasse: the sayde toppe is in forme or likenesse of a caldron. But within two miles of ỹ top is nothing but ashes and pomish stones: yet beneath that two miles, is the colde region couered all the yeare with Snowe, and somewhat lower are mightie huge trées growing called Vinatico which is exceeding heauie, and will not rot in anie water, although it lye a thousand yéeres therein. Also there is a wood called Barbusano, of like vertue, with many Sauine trées and Pine trées. And beneath this sorts of trées are woods of Baie trées, of v. & 12. miles long, which is a pleasant thing to trauaile through, among ỹ which are great numbers of small birdes, which sing exceeding sweete: but especially one sort that are verie little, and

of coulour in all reſpects like a Swallow, ſauing he hath a little blacke ſpot on his breaſt as broade as a pennie. He ſingeth more ſweéter then all the reſt, but if he be taken and unpriſoned in a cage, he liueth but a ſmall while. This Iland bringeth forth all ſortes of fruites as Canaria doth, and alſo all the other Ilands in generall, bringeth forth ſhrubbes or bruſhes, out of the which iſſueth a iuyce as white as milke, which after a while that it hath come out wareth thicke, and is exceéding good Birdlime, the buſh is called Taybayba. This Iland alſo bringeth forth another trée called Drago, which groweth on high among rockes, and by inciſſion at the foote of the trée iſſueth out a liquor like bloud, it is a common drugge among Apothecaries. Of the wood of this trée are made targets greatly eſteémed, becauſe if anie ſword or dagger hit thereon, they ſticke ſo faſt that it is hard plucking them out.

This is the moſt fruitfulleſt Iland of all the reſt for corne, and in that reſpect is a mother or nurſe to al ỹ others in time of néed. There groweth alſo a certaine moſſe vpon the high rockes called Orchel, which is bought for Diars to die withall. There

are

are 12. Ingenios called ſugar houſes, which make great quantitie of Sugar.

There is alſo one league of grounde which ſtãdeth betweene two townes, ỹ one called Larotaua, & the other Rialeio, which is thought that the like plot of ground is not in all the world. The reaſon is, that this one league of ground produceth ſweet water out of the cliffes or rockie mountaines, corne of all ſortes, fruites of all ſortes, and excellent good ſilke, flare, ware, and honnie, and verie good wines in abundance, with great ſtore of Sugar and fire wode. Out of this Iland is laden greate quantitie of wines for the weſt India, and other Countries. The beſt groweth on a hill ſide called the Ramble.

There is in that Iland a faire Citie, ſtanding three leagues from the ſea, neere vnto a lake called Laguna, wherin are two faire Pariſh Churches, there dwelleth the gouernour who ruleth al that Iland with iuſtice. There are alſo Aldermen for the publike weale, who buy their offices of the king: the moſt of the whole inhabitants of this Citie are Gentlemen, Merchants, and huſband men.

There are other foure Townes called

Sancta Crux, Larotaua, Rialeio, and Garachico.

In this Iland before the conquest dwelt seauen kinges, who with all their people dwelt in caues, and were cloathed in goat skinnes, as the Canaria people were, and with such like order of dyet as they had. Their order of buriall was, that when anie died, he was carried naked to a greate caue, where he was propped vp against the wall standing on his fæte. But if he were of anie authoritie among them, then had hée a staffe in his hand, & a vessell of milke standing by him. I haue seene caues of 300. of these corps together, the flesh bæing dryed vp, the bodie remained as light as parchment. These people were called Guãches, by naturall name they spake another language cleane contrarie to the Canarians, and so consequẽtly euerie Iland spake a seuerall language. Note gentle Reader that the Ilande of Canaria, the Ile of Tenerif, and the Ile of Palme appertaine to the King of Spaine, vnto whome they rent fiftie thousand Duckets yærely for custome & other profits. All these Ilandes ioyntly are one Bishoprick, which rent to the Bishop is 12. thousand duckets yærly,

and

and this I conclude of the Ile of Tenerif, which ſtandeth 27. degrees and a halfe, as I haue before declared.

Gomera.

THe Iland of Gomera ſtandeth Weſtward from Tenerif, in diſtaunce ſixe leagues: this is but a ſmal Iland containing 8. leagues in length. It is an Earledome, and the Lord thereof is called, the Earle of Gomera. But in caſe of anie controuerſie the vaſſalls may appeale to the kings ſuperiour Iudges which reſide in Canaria.

This Iland hath one proper towne, called Gomera, which hath an excellent good port or harbor for ſhips, where oftentimes the India Fléte, take refreſhing for their voyage.

There is alſo ſufficient graine and fruit for the maintenaunce of themſelues.

There is one Iugenio or Sugar houſe, with great plentie of wine and other ſorts of fruits, as Canaria and Tenerif hath.

This Iland yéeldeth no other commoditie but onely Orchell, it ſtandeth in 27. degrées diſtant from the Equator toward

The Ile of Palma.

THe Ile of Palma standeth. 12. leagues, distaunt from thy Ile Gomera Northwestward. This Iland is fruitfull of wine and Sugar: it hath a proper Citie, called the Citie of Palma, where is great contraction for wines, which are laden for the West India & other places. This citie hath one faire Church, and a gouernour, & Aldermen to maintaine and execute iustice. It hath also another pretie Towne, called S. Andrewes. It hath also foure Ingenios which make excellent sugar, two of the which are called Zauzes, and the other two, Tassacort.

This Iland gathereth but little bread corne: but rather is thereof prouided from Tenerif and other places.

Their best wines grow in a soile called the Brenia, where yerely is gathered 12. thousand Buts of wine like vnto maulmsies. This Iland standeth round, and containeth in circuit nere 25. leagues. It hath plentie of all sorts of fruits, as Canaria & Tenerif hath, it standeth in twentie seauen

uen degrées and a halfe.

The Iland of Yron, called Hierro.

THis Iland ſtandeth 10. leagues diſtant from ỳ Iland of Palma Weaſtward: it is but a little Ilande, which containeth ſixe leagues in circuite, and hath but ſmall peroblation. It appertayneth to the Earle of Gomera. The chiefeſt commoditie of this Ilande is Goates fleſh and Orchell. There is no Wine in all that Iland, but onely one vineard that an Engliſh man of Taunton in the Weſt Countrie planted among rockes, his name was Iohn Hill.

This Iland hath no kinde of freſh water but onely in the middle of the Ilande groweth a great trée with leaues lyke an Oliue trée, which hath a great ceſterne at the foote of the ſaid trée. This Trée continually is couered with clowdes, and by meane thereof, the leaues of the ſayde Trée doeth ſtill droppe Water, verye ſweete into the ſayd Ceſterne, which commeth to the ſayd trée from the clowdes by attraction. And this water ſufficeth the I-

land for all necessitie, as well the Cattell, as for the inhabitants. It standeth in 27. degrees.

The Iland of Lanzerot.

THe Ilande of Lanzerot standeth xviij. leagues distaunt from Gran Canaria Southeastward, the onely commoditie of this Iland, is Goats flesh and Orchell. It is an Earldome, & doth appertaine to Don Augustine de Herrera, w̄ title of Earle of Fortauentura & Lanzerot. But the vassalls of these Earledomes, may in any cause of wrong, appeale to ỹ Kings Iudges, which reside in Canaria, as I haue sayd before: because although the King hath reserued to himselfe but onely the three fruitfull Ilands, called Canaria, Tenerif, & Palma, yet hée also reserued the rod of iustice to himselfe, because otherwise the vassals might bée euill intreated of their Lords.

From this Iland is weekly brought to Canaria, Tenerif, & Palma, boates laden w̄ dried Goates flesh, called Tuslinetta, which serueth in stéed of bacon, and is very good meate. This Iland standeth in 26. degrees and is in length 12. leagues.

The

The Ile of Fortauentura.

THE Ile of Fortauentura ſtandeth 50. leagues diſtant from the Promontorie of Cabo de Guer, in the firme land of Affrica, and 24. leagues diſtant from Canana Eaſtward. This Iland doth appertaine to the Senior of Lanzerot. It is reaſonable fruitfull of Wheate and Barly, and alſo of Kine, Goats, and Orchell: this Ile is 15. leagues long and 10. leagues broad on the North ſide. It hath a little Ilande about one league diſtant frõ ẏ maine Iland betwæne both of the which it is nauegable for anie ſhips, and is called Gracioſa.

Both Fortauentura and Lanzerot haue verie little wine of the growth of thoſe Ilands. It ſtandeth in 27. degrees.

Thus much haue I written of theſe 7. Ilands by experiẽce, becauſe I was a dweller there as I haue ſayd before, the ſpace of ſeauen yeares, in the affaires of Maſter Thomas Lock, Maſter Anthonie Hikman, and Maſter Caſthin, who in thoſe dayes were worthie Merchants, and of great credit in the citie of London.

A deſcription of the Iland of Madera.

THE Iland of Madera standeth in 33. degrees distant from the equinoctinall line, and 70. leagues from the Ile of Tenerif Northeastward, & Southwest from Hercules pillers. This Iland was discouered, conquered, & inhabited by ỳ Portingall nation: it was first called ỳ Iland of Madera, by reason of the great wilderneſſe of sundrie sorts of træs that there did growe, and yet doth, as Ceder, Cipers, Vinatico, Barbuzano, Pine trees, and diuers others, and therefore the sayd Iland continueth still with the same name. Howbeit they hold opinion that betweene the said Iland and the Ile of Palma is an Iland not yet discouered, which is the true Iland Madera called S. Brandon. This Iland renteth a great sum of money to the king of Portingal yearely: it hath one faire citie called Fouchall, which hath a faire port or harbour for ships, and a strong Bulwarke, & a faire Cathedrall Church, with a Bishop & other dignities thereunto appertaining. There is also iustice and gouernment according to the Portingal vse. But causes of appellation are remitted to ỳ citie of Lisborne in Portingal, to the kings superiour Iudges there. This Iland hath another

towne

towne called Machico, which hath likewise a good rode for ships. There is also 16 Sugar houses called Ingenios, which make excellent good Sugar.

There is besides the goly timber before declared, greate store of diuers sortes of fruites, as peares, apples, plummes, wilde dates, peaches of diuerse sortes, Mellons, Batatas, Orainges, Lemons, pomgranads, Cidrons, Figs, and all manner of garden hearbs. Ther are many Dragon trees, such as grow in ẏ Canaria Ilands. But chiefly this land produceth great quantitie of singular good wines which are laden for manie places. On the North side of this land three leagues distant from the maine Iland standeth another little Iland, called Porto santo: ẏ people therof liueth by husbandrie, for the Iland of Madera gathereth but little corne: but rather is thereof prouided out of Fraunce and from the Iland of Tenerif. On the East side of the Ile of Madera fiue leagues distant standeth another little Iland called the Desart, which produceth onely Orchell, and nourisheth a great number of Goates. For the precinct of the maine Iland, which may be 30. leagues in circuit, and the land is of great

height,

height where those trées grow. It is wonder to sée the conueiance of the water to ỹ Ingenios by mines through the mountaines.

In the midde waie betweene Tenerif, and the Iland of Madera standeth a little solitarie Iland called the Saluages, which may be about one league in compasse, which hath neither trée nor fruit, but onely foode for Goates.

FINIS.